

Get your Valentine Messages in the Hickam Kukini

The Hickam Kukini will have a special Valentine's Day section in the Feb. 11 issue.

If you have a friend or loved one, especially if they are deployed or TDY, and can express a personalized message in 25 words or less, the Kukini staff will ensure a copy gets to their deployed location.

Forward messages to hickam.kukini@hickam.af.mil, subject line "Valentines message by Jan. 28."



Change of command

Lt. Col. Bob Holba will assume command of the 65th Airlift Squadron from Lt. Col. Lance Lindsley at a change of command ceremony Thursday at 9:05 a.m. at the missing man channel display behind the officer's club. Colonel Holba comes from the 15th Airlift Squadron at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. A reception will follow immediately at the Lauhala Garden in the officer's club. The public is invited to attend.



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base personnel, who had previously been cleared through the 15th Mission Support Squadron processing line, and members of other military branches headed to Thailand on a C-5 departing from Hickam's ramp.

They were visited in the waiting area and escorted to the plane by Chief Master Sgt. Jim LeVack, 15th Airlift Wing command chief and Col. Scott Wardell, 15th Medical Group commander, who was impressed with the diverse show of humanitarian aid.

"I believe we are the only force in the world that can put together a deployment team like that," Colonel Wardell said. "From Guard to Navy to our own active duty, it really is quite a blended effort."

"It's a true demonstration of our abilities and commitment to those in need."

Meeting up with the 15th CS team are six members of the 201st Combat Camera Squadron from the Hawaii Air National Guard.

"Our job is to get in country as soon as possible, augmenting the communication's team and providing long haul support," said Tech. Sgt. John Divine. "Anytime we get to work alongside our communications guys from the active duty side of the house, it helps to break down barriers as well

as improve our training efforts."

Also part of the deploying forces were 4 members of the 15th Airlift Wing and 10 members from Headquarters Pacific Air Forces and other base tenant units, but they weren't the only one catching a ride on the C-5.

More than a dozen Navy Seebies from Port Hueneme, Ca., were tagging along to Thailand. For Chief Petty Officer Paul Kiernan, Equipment Operations chief, this wasn't his first humanitarian deployment, but it was his initial effort coming through the Hickam passenger terminal and attended to by the men and women of the 735th Air Mobility Squadron, and he was impressed with what he experienced.

"They kept us informed and comfortable throughout the entire processing ordeal," Kiernan shared, and admitted there was one thing left to look forward to, the ride on the Air Force carrier.

"They're a lot more comfortable than what we're used too," he said.

He wasn't the only one excited about Tuesday's mission.

Airman 1st Class Raymond Coon, 735th AMS passenger service representative, assisted the deploying team throughout the day.

Hawaii Tsunami tips, did you know

Editors notes: All these tips and more can be found on the following Web-sites, www.co.honolulu.hi.us/ocda/tsunami2.htm and <http://www.tsunami.org>

What areas of Oahu are vulnerable to tsunami?

Generally, all coastal areas of Oahu are vulnerable. People should determine now whether they live, work, or go to school in an evacuation zone and develop individual or family emergency plans accordingly.

How will I know that a tsunami is expected?

An earthquake affecting Oahu: A local earthquake, i.e., one that causes people to fall or hold on to something to keep from falling, is a natural tsunami warning. If outdoors, remain in open areas away from tall trees, poles, or buildings. If indoors, remain indoors and take cover. In either event, when the shaking stops, immediately get to higher ground. There is no time for an official warning.

An earthquake in Hawaiian waters: If a significant earthquake occurs in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center will issue an Urgent Tsunami Warning for those islands which could be affected by tsunami. The warning will be announced over radio through the Emergency Broadcast System in conjunction with the sounding of Civil Defense sirens. If an Urgent Tsunami Warning specifically identifies Oahu, seek higher ground.

A distant earthquake: In the event of a significant earthquake in distant areas of the Pacific Basin, i.e., the Aleutians, Alaska, South America, etc., the PTWC will issue a Tsunami Watch until a tsunami can be confirmed or discounted. A Tsunami Warning will be issued by

the PTWC when a tsunami is confirmed and evacuation is necessary. The warning will be announced over radio through the Emergency Broadcast System in conjunction with the sounding of Civil Defense sirens.

What if a Tsunami Warning is issued while my child is in school?

Schools and day care centers located within evacuation zones will evacuate according to their plans. Public schools and certain private schools and day care centers outside the evacuation zones will remain open and care for children until they can be safely picked up or released. Parents should be familiar with their school's or day care center's emergency plans.

What should I do or not do in a tsunami warning?

Because a tsunami can strike at any time, being adequately prepared and knowing what to do beforehand could save your life.

Hawaii State and County Civil Defense agencies provide maps of evacuation zones and information on how to be prepared for this type of natural disaster in the front pages of the telephone book.

People at the beach that feel an earthquake or observe a rapid withdrawal of the sea and think a tsunami may be coming, head for higher ground immediately. Remember, tsunamis travel at very fast speeds across the ocean; therefore once a warning has been issued you should evacuate immediately.

If I need to evacuate, what should I bring with me?

A tsunami survival kit is generally the same

for all natural disasters.

Here is a list of suggested supplies: an extra supply of prescription medicines, non-perishable dietary foods, ice chest, a minimum of 2 quarts of water per person per day, pet food, candles/flashlight, matches, blankets/sleeping bags, extra cash, clothing, eyeglasses, personal hygiene items, special items for infants, elderly and disabled family members, quiet games or books/toys for children, important papers- driver's license, special medical information, insurance policies, and proper inventories, First aid kit, and water purification kit.

State and federal agencies are planning to conduct a tsunami exercise April 1 on the anniversary of a catastrophic tsunami that hit Hawaii in 1946.

What has been the most destructive tsunami to strike the Hawaiian Islands in recent history?

Early in the morning April 1, 1946, an earthquake with a reported magnitude of 7.1 occurred

in the Aleutian Islands off of Alaska. Almost five hours later the largest and most destructive tsunami waves in reported history struck the Hawaiian Islands. Waves were reported to be 54 feet in Molokai, and 55 feet in Pololu Valley on the Big Island. Waves in some areas penetrated more than half a mile inland.

A total of 159 tsunami-related fatalities resulted from this destructive event. No warning was possible nor given for this tsunami.

How can I obtain more information about tsunami hazards and preparedness?

The Oahu Civil Defense Agency, 650 South King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813, telephone 523-4121.

Resource: Preparing For Tsunami brochure. Courtesy of Oahu Civil Defense Agency.



From left, 735th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron members Tech. Sgt. Brian Ramsey and Staff Sgts. Timothy Gungel, Brian Cabe and Nikolas Henry review procedures before departing for Kadena Air Base, Japan, Jan. 4. They deployed to provide aircraft maintenance support for planes en-route for tsunami relief.

"It was pretty cool to get our folks on the way so they can help those less fortunate."

With a team of 13 security force members from HANGS 154th Wing scheduled to depart soon, Airman Coon won't have to wait long to get that feeling again.

According to the CNN Web site, the Dec. 26 tsunami was caused by slippage of about 600 miles of the boundary between the India and Burma plates off the west coast of northern Sumatra.

The convergence of other plates strains the area, and at the

quake's epicenter, the India plate is moving to the northeast at 2 inches per year relative to the Burma plate. The aftershocks were distributed along the plate boundary from the epicenter to near Andaman Island.

Tsunamis can travel up to 600 mph at the deepest point of

the water, but slow as they near the shore, eventually hitting the shore at 30 to 40 mph, according to Charles McCreery, director of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. The energy of the wave's speed is transferred to height and sheer force as it nears shore.

Military child scholarship application deadline set

By Adam Austin
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — There's still time to submit an application to the Scholarships for Military Children program. The deadline for the \$1,500 scholarships is Feb. 16 and all applications must be delivered to the commissary by the close of business that day. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The application can be downloaded through a link on the front page of <http://www.commissaries.com> or downloaded directly from <http://www.militaryscholar.org> and filled out by hand or on the computer. Copies of the application are also available at commissaries worldwide.

DeCA program liaison Edna Hoogewind stresses that students should put emphasis on writing the essay portion of the application. "In past years the essay has been a key factor in deciding among the many outstanding applicants," said

Hoogewind. This year's topic is "How has the heightened awareness of terrorism impacted your life?"

Students who are not hand-delivering applications are advised to use a delivery method that supplies a return receipt. Applicants may visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org> and click on the "Verification of Receipt" section. Scholarship managers will respond to "Verification of Receipt" e-mails until June 15.

Applicants should check all materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that it's the 2005 application, not one from previous years.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, including Coast Guard, Guard and Reserve, and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently

enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or be enrolled in a program of study designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Additional instructions can be found on the application or at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the Scholarships for Military Children program. Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, screens applicants and awards scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor DeCA is involved in the decision process.

The Scholarships for Military Children program is in its fifth year and has awarded nearly 3,000 scholarships and more \$3 million since the first scholarship was awarded. Scholarships are

primarily funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries. The general public can also contribute through a link at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 275 commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of 30 percent or more on their purchases compared to commercial prices — savings worth about \$2,700 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.